suggested that the railway bridge might be converted into a road bridge as well. The Member in that connection referred to the Dewan's reply given at the last session of the Assembly, and said that, if the bridge could be constructed a little to the west of the *Kadathu kadavu*, the cost would be less.

The Member next stated that, although several representations had been made in regard to the establishment of a Munsiff's court at Alwaye, nothing had been done in the matter so far and that the absence of that court was a source of great inconvenience to the people. As enough had been already said to justify the opening of a Munsiff's court at Alwaye, he would only reiterate the request and pray for early orders.

Dewan's reply.—Your first request is for an English Middle School for girls at Alwaye. The policy of the Government is not to multiply the number of departmental English Middle Schools. You have mentioned as an alternative that Government should give the necessary lands and buildings and that the Municipal Council should establish and work the school as an aided institution. I presume you have the authority of your Municipal Council to say this. It is a proposition which the Government can certainly consider favourably.

You next refer to the revenue camp shed and say that the building may be placed at the disposal of the Municipal Council for the purpose of using it for the school. I personally do not see why there should be separate camp sheds for the Public Works and the Revenue Departments. One camp shed must be sufficient. The revenue camp shed would be placed at the disposal of the Municipal Council if the Municipal Council would start an English School and work it as an aided institution. Government would give the usual maintenance and other grants under the Education Code.

The next thing you have mentioned is a bridge over the Alwaye river. It is true that last year I said that the bridge was estimated to cost between 2 and 3 lakhs of rupees. The correct figure of the estimate is Rs. 2,34,500. That was the amount of the estimate prepared in 1917. If the estimate is revised, the likelihood is that it may exceed Rs. 3 lakhs. You mentioned a site about half a furlong to the west of the Alwaye *Kadattu kadavu* as being a suitable place for the bridge. The Engineering Department, I take it, has explored all possible sites for the bridge and must have prepared the estimate on the basis of the most suitable site available. It is a very costly proposition. We are having some sort of programme now under which we take up one bridge after another for construction. We are doing every year one or two bridges. This bridge, being very costly, must naturally wait for some time. It is impossible to take up the construction of such a costly bridge so soon after the completion of the Chengannur bridge, which has cost the Government between three and four lakhs of rupees. Further, there is the question of the conversion of the railway bridge into a combined road and railway bridge, in regard to which the necessary action is being taken. The South Indian Railway Company is engaged in the investigation and some amount has been sanctioned by this Government and the Cochin Government for it. This Government has agreed to pay one-half of the cost of that work. When the estimate is ready and is sanctioned, the Railway Company will execute the work. This Government will pay a moiety of the cost of the work, and the whole thing will, I believe, be an accomplished fact within a few years.

In regard to a Munsiff's court at Alwaye, last year the High Court said that there was no justification for opening a Munsiff's court at Alwaye. This year we have not received any report from the High Court. I shall address the High Court again and see what they say.

102. Needs of the Parur Municipality in respect of landing facilities, communications, drainage, etc.

Mr. K. Velayudhan Pillai (Member, Municipal Council, Parur) began by observing that the local needs mentioned in his memorandum were mainly those to which he referred at the eighteenth session of the Assembly, and that, from the replies

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given to him and the other members representing the several Municipal Councils in the Assembly, he understood that it was the settled policy of the Government not to render any monetary aid to any of the Municipalities of the State, except probably to the Trivandrum Municipality. Government seemed to be of opinion that Municipal Councils should ordinarily find their own funds to meet local needs. But, as he had been asked by his Council to press the subject once again, he was submitting the same for the reconsideration of the Government. Parur differed from the other municipal towns in the State in that it had practically no road communication whatever. In the circumstances, it was very hard to ask the municipality to provide for all the conveniences of the town without help from the Government. There was only one road in Parur *i. e.* the portion of the main road between Alwaye and Parur lying within the municipal town. The Municipality had no funds at present for opening new roads and its financial condition was such that it could not hope to repay any loan that might be raised on that account.

The next need touched upon by the Member was the deepening of the Kala *thodu* and the Pattini *thodu*, the two works which were urged on the attention of the Government by the members of the Assembly even before Parur was made a Municipality. The matter merited immediate attention.

Another matter of urgent need was the construction of landing ghats in front of the market in the Kannankulangara jetty and in front of the District Court at Chittary. At present these were forthcoming at Government cost. The Member pointed out that Alleppey had not only both its canals protected by masonary works, but also convenient landing ghats has been taken at Government cost, and said that he was at a loss to know why Parur institutions of this type by a similar convenience.

The necessity of a Magistrate's court at Parur was the next subject dealt with by the Member. In reply to the representation made by the Taluk Member at the previous session of the Assembly that the local Second Class Magistrate's court should be raised to a First Class court, the Dewan said that the matter would be considered. But the result of that representation was that even the existing court was taken away from Parur. No doubt a Bench court had been sanctioned. But it was not an unmixed blessing. So far as Parur was concerned, a Bench court by itself was insufficient as it was surrounded on almost all sides by Cochin territory and as the Magistrate's court, situated far away from Parur, would, in the circumstances, be practicallly useless.

Further, the nomination of Magistrates to the Bench court was most unsatisfactory, since illiterate men were also elevated to that position. He requested that the Government might exercise better discretion in the nomination of judges of these courts, as the duties they were called upon to discharge were of an onerous nature alike in respect of person and property.

Dewan's reply.—Your observations in regard to the selection of persons as Magistrates of Bench Courts will be remembered. The establishment of a stipendiary Magistrate's court at Parur is a matter which will have to wait. I have to give you the same reply which I gave to the other members who wanted stipendiary Magistrate's courts where Bench Magistrates' courts have been recently established. You have a court at Alwaye. No doubt it is 12 miles from Parur. But that is not a long distance. Buses are running between the two places, and except on days when there are very high floods, Alwaye can be very easily reached.

In regard to the landing place and the deepening of the Pattaini *thodu* and the Kala *thodu*, the Chief Engineer says that he will look into these matters and see how far the Government can comply with your wishes.

In regard to the maintenance of roads, the President of the Parur Municipal Council has written to say that he is desirous of coming to some sort of understanding with the Government similar to the understanding which has been entered into between the Government and the Municipalities of Alleppey and Nagercoil in the matter of roads. When that is done, I am sure there will be a satisfactory arrangement, under which your roads and streets will receive attention.

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